

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-28 are rejected.

Claims 29-32 are new.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0172002 to Spira et al. (“Spira”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,216,612 to Cornett et al. (“Cornett”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites a system comprising “a warehouse facility for storing, in a *centralized manner*, a maintenance part for a plurality of types of machines located at a plurality of plants.” (emphasis added.)

Spira does not suggest or teach a centralized warehouse facility for storing a plurality of maintenance parts. Spira discloses a method for providing modular services to businesses. The method includes using a menu, a knowledge base and hardware and software tools. Although the method describes maintenance services, it describes a modular method, not a centralized system. Spira describes “maintenance services on a modular basis” that includes a network that has separate and distinct regional centers. (*See*, Spira Paragraph [0044].) The specification describes the use of a first regional center **28**, a second regional center **30** and even a third regional center **40** (*See*, Spira, Paragraphs [0090]-[0094].) Spira does not describe a centralized system, but rather a method that divides the services among global, regional and local levels. (*See*, Spira, Paragraph [0058].)

In contrast, the current invention teaches a centralized maintenance system that includes a single centralized warehouse facility that serves a plurality of plants, regardless where the plants are located. The centralized maintenance facility described in the present invention stores maintenance parts for various systems across a plurality of plants located across the world, eliminating the need for multiple maintenance centers as described in Spira. Further, it reduces overhead and redundancies, resulting in a more efficient maintenance system.

Cornett does not cure the deficiencies of Spira. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-21 depend from claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1, claims 2-21 are not obvious over Spira in view of Cornett. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2-21 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 22 recites features similar to those discussed with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the reasons, claim 22 is not obvious over Spira in view of Cornett. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 22 be withdrawn.

Claims 23-28 depend from claim 22. Therefore, by virtue of their dependency from claim 22, claims 23-28 are not obvious over Spira in view of Cornett. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 23-28 be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 29-32 are patentable over the cited references. Claim 29 is essentially claim 1 rewritten to include the limitations of claims 2-4. Claims 30-32 correspond to claims 5, 7, and 8 respectively. Thus, the above arguments are applicable to these claims.

CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action mailed September 11, 2007, has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that all the claims are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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